



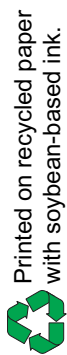
**CONGRESSMAN
GIL GUTKNECHT**
Congress of the United States
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

PUBLIC DOCUMENT

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Gil Gutknecht
M.C.

PRESORTED STANDARD



**CONGRESSMAN GIL GUTKNECHT
FIRST DISTRICT, MINNESOTA**



How the
FARM BILL
works for
YOU!

Securing Rural America

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act – the product of 50 hearings over two years – provides a much-needed shock absorber for Minnesota farmers during times of low commodity prices.

Commodities



Minnesota's farmers face a range of uncertainties beyond their control. Weather, prices and even foreign policy can have a dramatic impact on agriculture.

The new Farm Bill fully maintains the market-oriented features and the planting flexibility of the 1996 Farm Bill. However, it adds predictability for our farmers by implementing a system of

counter-cyclical payments. Payments would be made whenever the effective price for a commodity is less than the targeted price.

One of the provisions I am most proud of is the elimination of the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact. This policy unfairly favored northeast producers at the expense of Minnesota farmers. No longer are midwest farmers penalized for their location.

Dairy



Important dairy provisions in the bill include a National Dairy Program, which provides price stability, and the Dairy Export Incentive Program (DEIP), which helps dairy exporters compete with other nations. Both programs

will be an essential component to Minnesota's dairy future.

Don't forget the Friday **E-Line** –
Gil's weekly update is available
to you at **www.gil.house.gov**!

The Farm Bill not only brings predictability to federal farm policy but also improves our *soil and water conservation programs*. Protection of our soil, air, water and wildlife for generations to come continues to be a priority.

We build on proven programs with an unprecedented 79 percent increase in conservation funding. This will provide producers with more options to implement conservation practices.

The bill also makes changes to the popular Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Both will be more open to all producers and will be more adequately funded.

Conservation



This bill also makes significant investments in, and improvements to, our rural development programs. Such programs are important to sustaining our rural

communities by developing infrastructure and creating jobs in rural areas.

Rural Telework

I worked to include language which promotes technology transfer to rural America. The program is a *rural telework institute* and a federal grant program to start rural telework centers across the United States. Such centers will provide a place for people in rural areas to take advantage of new technology, such as high-speed, high-quality broadband services, and will help bring jobs to our countryside. Technology Plus in Mankato is an excellent example.

*President Bush signed the Farm Bill
on Monday, May 13, 2002.*

*Complete details of the new Farm Bill
are available at **www.gil.house.gov**,
agriculture.house.gov and
www.usda.gov/farmbill.*

